

Historical usage in Australia is thus ambiguous, although there is a tendency to treat the name as neuter, particularly in Western Australia where it grows. What about usage of *-toma* in other genera?

Within the Australian flora I can find only two other examples, *Crossotoma* (= *Scaevola*) and *Isotoma* in Goodeniaceae.

Unfortunately the only two taxa in *Crossotoma* are *C. oleoides* and *C. spinescens*, both of which have the same endings irrespective of gender, and are thus completely inconclusive.

Isotoma seems to have been fairly consistently treated as feminine, with about seven epithets ending in *-a* (the remainder are either genitive, or end in *-is*).

A search in *Index Nominum Genericorum* revealed only 23 generic names (excluding *Sphenotoma*) which were unequivocally compounds with a final part *-toma*. This seems to be a relatively rare construction in vascular plants but more common in algae. Of the 23 examples, 14 adopted a clear feminine gender, 4 adopted neuter gender, 1 was either masculine or feminine, and 4 were inconclusive (as for *Crossotoma*). Interestingly, *Polytoma* has been treated as feminine, as has *Parapolytoma*, but *Metapolytoma* is treated as neuter!

In summary, although the source words in the generic name are masculine, almost no-one treats the compound as masculine. The original author treated it as either masculine or feminine, the next author as feminine, and thereafter the usage became ambiguous, tending towards neuter. Parallel constructions in other families strongly favour treating it as feminine. This has the added benefit of the generic and specific epithets (Group A adjectives) both ending in 'a' (e.g. *Sphenotoma squarrosa*) rather than, if neuter, having mixed 'a/um' endings (e.g. *Sphenotoma squarrosium*) which many find confusing.

The weight of priority, usage, custom and aesthetics suggest that *Sphenotoma* should be treated as feminine.

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***Xylomelum benthamii* Orchard, a replacement name for *Xylomelum salicinum* (Meisn.) Benth., nom. illeg. (Proteaceae)**

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The name of this Queensland taxon was based on *Xylomelum salicinum* A.Cunn. ex R.Br. (1830), a name mentioned only in synonymy, and thus invalid. It was validated as *X. pyriforme* β *salicinum* Meisn. (Meisner

1856). Bentham (1870) raised it to species status as “*X. salicinum* A.Cunn. in R.Br.” (and incidentally was the first to give Meisner’s name the formal rank of variety), but unfortunately cited *X. scottianum* in synonymy. The

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name *X. salicinum* is thus a superfluous illegitimate name, synonymous with *X. scottianum*. The plant currently called *X. salicinum*, based on *X. pyriforme* β (var.) *salicinum* Meisn. therefore requires a new name at species rank.

***Xylomelum benthamii* Orchard, nom. nov.**

Based on *Xylomelum pyriforme* var. *salicinum* Meisn. as (β *salicinum*) in A.L.P.P. de Candolle, *Prodr.* 14: 423 (1856), non *Xylomelum salicinum* (Meisn.) A.Cunn. ex Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 5: 408 (1870), nom. superfl. — *Xylomelum pyriforme* β R.Br. Suppl. *Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holl.* 31 (1830), nom. inval. — *Xylomelum pyriforme* var. *salicinum* Meisn. in A.P. de Candolle, & A.L.P.P. de Candolle, (eds), *Prodr.* 14(1): 423 (1856) — **Type:** on the Brisbane River about 88 miles [140 km] NW from the penal settlement on that stream [Qld], 25 June 1829, *A.Cunningham* 35; holo: K, iso: MEL. (fide D.B.Foreman, 1995).

The synonymy of *Xylomelum scottianum* is as follows:

***Xylomelum scottianum* (F.Muell.) F.Muell.**

Fragm. Phyt. Austral. 5: 174 (1866). — *Helicia scottiana* F.Muell., *Fragm.* 4: 107 (1864), **BASEONYM.** — **Type:** Rockingham Bay, Qld, 8 Feb 1874, *J.Dallachy*; holo: MEL. (fide D.B.Foreman, 1995).

Xylomelum salicinum (Meisn.) Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 5: 408 (1870), nom. superfl.

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A new combination *Trema tomentosa* var. *aspera* (Brongn.) Hewson (Ulmaceae)

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E. Soepadmo (1977) treated *Trema viridis* as a synonym of *Trema cannabina*, while recognising the other two Australian taxa, *T. orientalis* and *T. tomentosa* as distinct species. In *Flora of Australia* (1989) I adopted the view that the name *T. cannabina* was misapplied to Australian collections, and that they should be recognised as constituting a distinct taxon.

I believed that this taxon was closely related to *T. tomentosa*, and proposed that it be treated as a subspecies of that species. A new combination was required, and I published *Trema tomentosa* var. *viridis* (Planch.) Hewson (1989).

Unfortunately, at the time I had overlooked Article 57.3 of the 1983 ICBN (now Art. 11.6) which rules that the autonym has priority over the name of the same date and rank that created it. Accordingly, my combination is invalid. The correct combination is *Trema tomentosa* var. *aspera*, which is formally created below.

The synonymy relates to Australian occurrences of the taxon only.

***Trema tomentosa* var. *aspera* (Brongn.) Hewson, comb. nov.**

Celtis aspera Brongn., in L.I.Duperrey, *Voy. Monde* (Phan.) 213, t. 48 (Atlas) (1834) **basionym.** — *Sponia aspera* (Brongn.) Decne, *Nouv. Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat.* 3: 498

(1834) — *Trema aspera* (Brongn.) Blume, *Mus. Bot.* 2: 58 (1856) — *Trema aspera* (Brongn.) Blume var. *aspera*: G. Bentham, *Flora Austral.* 6:158 (1873) — *Trema aspera* var. *typica* Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 89: 560 (1921), nom. inval.

Sponia viridis Planch., *Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. ser.* 3, 10: 319 (1848) — *Trema viridis* (Planch.) Blume, *Mus. Bot.* 2: 58 (1856) — *Trema aspera* var. *viridis* (Planch.) Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 6: 158 (1873) — *Trema tomentosa* var. *viridis* (Planch.) Hewson, *Fl. Austral.* 3: 190 (1989), nom. inval.

Trema aspera var. *xerophila* Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 89: 6 (1921)

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